New lines from Ajmer to Kota and Pushkar to Merta City

†*195. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had announced sanction of new lines from Ajmer-Nasirabad-Boondi-Kota and from Pushkar to Merta City on the occasion of inauguration of gauge conversion of Ajmer-Chittorgarh section in Ajmer; and

(b) the details of the action being taken as per that announcement?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, a Reconnaissance Engineering cum Traffic Survey for a new Broad Gauge line from Ajmer to Kota *via* Nasirabad and an Updating Survey for a new Broad Gauge line from Pushkar to Merta City have been taken up.

Misleading advertisement of beverage

*196. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to advertisements running for past few months on television for 7 Up beverage alongwith images of lemon fruit slices;

(b) if so, whether such deliberate portrayal of fruit images with aerated water containing no fruit juice is not misleading to consumer; and

(c) if so, what action Government have proposed to take against the erring company?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The matter has now been brought to the attention of Government.

(b) As per the extant policy on misleading advertisements, complaints are referred to the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI), Mumbai which takes a view whether such advertisement is misleading or whether it conforms to the ASCI code for self regulation in advertising.

(c) Appropriate action as per the relevant provisions of law will be taken after the decision of the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) on this matter.

Luxury train on Ahmedabad-Udaipur route

*197. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:
SHRI KESHUBHAI S. PATEL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is possible to introduce a "Palace on Wheel" type tourist attraction on the Ahmedabad-Udaipur route; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) and (b) On receipt of request and submission of a detailed report from the State Governments Tourism Development Corporation, this Ministry examines the operational feasibility and financial viability of the proposal. If the proposal is found operationally feasible and financially viable, the Railways may introduce luxury tourist trains on the line of "Palace on Wheels" for promotion of Rail Tourism in collaboration with the State Tourism Development Corporation. However, no such proposal in this regard has been received by this Ministry.

Claims of Mumbai rail blasts

*198. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be please to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only 174 claims have been finalized at Railway Claims Tribunal, Mumbai of 7/11 Mumbai bomb blasts;

(b) the details of the complaints received and the action by his Ministry in this regard;

(c) whether inspite of Special Bench, work is very slow;

(d) the details of the grievances, representation, etc. received in this regard; and

(e) in how many months, all the cases would be settled?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) As on 14.08.2007, 250 cases have been finalized.

(b) to (d) With regard to settlement of claims cases, complaints were mainly relating to delay in settlement of claims by Railway Claims Tribunal (RCT).

The following action has been taken by the Government.

(i) The responsibility for filing of claims lies with the claimants. However, Railways have provided all the required guidance and help to the claimants *e.g.* repeated advertisements in the newspapers, personal contacts by railway officials for guidance, opening of a 'Help Centre' at Western Railway Headquarters Office, Churchgate manned by Law assistants for assisting claimants in filing of claims.

(ii) As against sittings for one week in a month by the Railway Claims Tribunal, sittings have been doubled to two weeks per month.

(iii) 2nd Medical Board has also been formed in addition to the one functioning earlier to speed up the medical reports for submission to Railway Claims Tribunal.

Due to the above action, 250 cases have been settled till 14.08.2007.

(e) The proceedings followed by the Special Bench consists of examination, cross examination of evidences etc. as Railway Claims Tribunal is a judicial body. As such no definite time frame can be indicated for finalization of pending cases. However, all concerned departments including the Railway Claims Tribunal are putting in their best efforts to finalize the cases in the least possible time.